

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A gas delivery mask comprising:

(a) a mask shell; and

(b) a forehead support comprising:

(1) a support arm associated with the mask shell,

(2) a forehead support bracket, and

(3) a connecting assembly coupling the forehead support bracket to the support arm such that ~~he the~~ forehead support bracket moves to a patient-contacting position without adjustment by the user responsive to ~~is self-aligning on a patient as the mask is-being~~ donned by such a patient.

2. (Original) The mask of claim 1, further comprising an adjustment assembly for adjusting the relative position of the forehead support and the mask shell such that the forehead support is moveable in at least two dimensions relative to the mask shell.

3. (Currently Amended) The mask of claim 2, wherein the adjustment assembly ~~an~~ includes an arcuate attaching member associated with the mask shell, and wherein a first portion of the support arm is moveably mounted to the arcuate attaching member.

4. (Currently Amended) The mask of claim 3, wherein the adjustment assembly ~~an~~ includes a plurality of teeth disposed on the arcuate attaching member, and wherein the first portion of the support arm includes a flexible portion adapted to engage at least one of the plurality of teeth.

5. (Original) The mask of claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly includes an arcuate track associated with the forehead support bracket and a track engaging member disposed on a portion of the support arm, and wherein the track engaging member is operatively coupled to the arcuate track so as to move along the arcuate track during self-aligning of the forehead support bracket on such a patient.

6. (Currently Amended) A gas delivery mask comprising:
a mask shell;
a forehead support having a support arm associated with the mask shell and a forehead support bracket coupled to the support arm; and
an adjustment assembly for adjusting a relative position of the forehead support and the mask shell such that the forehead support is moveable in at least two dimensions relative to the mask, and wherein the adjustment assembly includes an arcuate attaching member coupled to the mask shell, and wherein a first portion of the support arm is slideable along the arcuate attaching member to adjust a position of the forehead support relative to the mask shell.

Claim 7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The mask of claim 7, wherein the adjustment assembly ~~an~~ includes a plurality of teeth disposed on the arcuate attaching member, and wherein the first portion of the support arm includes a flexible portion adapted to engage at least one of the plurality of teeth.

9. (Currently Amended) A gas delivery mask comprising:
(a) a mask shell; ~~and~~
(b) a forehead support comprising:
 (1) a support arm associated with the mask shell,
 (2) a forehead support bracket, and

(3) a coupling system attaching the support arm to the forehead support bracket such that the forehead support bracket is detachable from the support arm while the mask is being worn by a patient;

(c) a patient circuit coupled to the mask shell and not to the forehead support; and

(d) a headgear coupled to the forehead support bracket, wherein detaching the forehead support bracket allows the mask shell and patient circuit to be decoupled from the patient as a unitary assembly, while the headgear and the forehead support bracket remain coupled to the patient.

10. (Original) The mask of claim 9, further comprising an adjustment assembly for adjusting the relative position of the forehead support and the mask shell such that the forehead support is moveable in at least two dimensions relative to the mask shell.

11. (Original) The mask of claim 10, wherein the adjustment assembly ~~an~~ includes an arcuate attaching member associated with the mask shell, and wherein a first portion of the support arm is moveably mounted to the arcuate attaching member.

12. (Currently Amended) The mask of claim 11, wherein the adjustment assembly ~~an~~ includes a plurality of teeth disposed on the arcuate attaching member, and wherein the first portion of the support arm includes a flexible portion adapted to engage at least one of the plurality of teeth.

13. (Original) The mask of claim 9, wherein the coupling system includes:
a slot defined in a portion of the support arm;
a cut defined in a portion of the support arm extending from the slot at a predetermined angle so as to provide access to the slot; and
a connecting bracket associated with the forehead support bracket, wherein the connecting bracket is sized and configured to be removeably placed within the slot by passing

through the cut at the predetermined angle, and wherein the connecting bracket is rotateable within the slot responsive to being positioned therein.

14. (Currently Amended) A forehead support adapted to be secured to a gas delivery mask, the forehead support comprising:

a flexible headgear strap;

a forehead support bracket; and

a connector associated with first slot disposed on first end portion the forehead support bracket; and

a second slot disposed on first end portion the forehead support bracket, wherein adapted to connect a the headgear strap is threaded in the first and the second slots to connect the headgear strap to the forehead support bracket such that the headgear strap spans a length of a patient's forehead to define at least a portion of a cushion between the forehead support bracket and such a patient's forehead.

Claim 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method of donning a gas delivery mask having a mask shell and support arm coupled thereto comprising

providing a headgear having upper headgear straps, a forehead support bracket coupled to the upper headgear straps, and lower headgear straps;

donning the upper headgear strap on a head of a patient;

orienting the gas delivery mask such that a ~~mask~~ mask shell is spaced apart from a face of a patient and a forehead support is proximate to the forehead support bracket;

connecting the forehead support to the forehead support bracket;

rotating the gas delivery mask into place on the face of a patient; and

connecting the lower headgear straps to the gas delivery mask.

17. (Original) A method of removing a gas delivery mask from a patient, comprising:

- disconnecting lower headgear straps of a headgear from the gas delivery mask;
- rotating the gas delivery mask by moving a mask shell away from a face of a patient while a support arm of the gas delivery mask remains coupled to a forehead support bracket associated with an upper headgear strap being worn by such a patient; and
- disconnecting the support arm of the gas delivery mask from the forehead support bracket.